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# WEEKLY PEOPLE.



VOL. XI. NO. 52.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1902.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

## FELLED BY WORKMAN

## S. L. P. Man May Die From Assault.

## KARL MALMBERG THE VICTIM

**Hit on the Head With Iron Bar—Assault Was the Outcome of Conditions Prevailing in "L" Repair Shops—Men of Different Nationalities Are Pitted Against Each Other and Jealousies Fostered—Men in the Shop Told to Keep Mum About the Affair—Company Refuses Information.**

On Tuesday Karl Malmberg, one of the best known of the Swedish party members, was assaulted and probably fatally injured by a fellow workman, William Cahill, of 1,363 Third avenue. Malmberg, who lives with his brother at 101 West 10th street, was employed in the electrical department of the "L" repair shops at Ninety-ninth street and Lexington avenue. Yesterday, about 1:30, Malmberg spoke to Cahill, who had been drinking, and asked him for a wrench which Cahill had in his possession. Cahill refused to give it, and grew threatening. Malmberg, who was the personification of good nature, laughingly insisted that the other surrender the wrench as it was needed at once. Thereupon Cahill turned on him and said: "You damned square head, take that." He swang on Malmberg with a short iron bar, and felled him to the floor. The bar penetrated Malmberg's skull, causing a compound fracture. The assailant fled, and to a late hour had not been captured.

Malmberg was taken to the Harlem Hospital, and at midnight it was reported that he was unconscious, and that the chances for his recovery was very slight. Nothing definite could be said until the full extent of the injury was determined.

The trouble has been developing for some time, and during the past week there have been several fights among the men in the shop. One cause of the friction seems to be the high position taken by the Swedish workmen. This has resulted in ill feeling and clashes, and the bosses have taken advantage of them, but the first serious fray was that which took place yesterday. But that was only a portion, a violent outbreak of what has long been smouldering. In fact it is a veritable race war that has been raging, and its location in a large establishment of this character above the real foundation of all race wars.

After the assault Cahill fled. In the neighborhood it is said that he has had a bad reputation, and in saloons has frequently been heard to express his dislike for the Swede, and also express his determination to smash a Swede wherever found.

After the affair was over the foreman of the establishment demanded that the men keep silent on it, and he threatened with instant discharge anyone who dared to talk on the subject. The result was that at the office no information would be given, and outside the detail was of the most meagre kind. One man, however, rather bitterly said: "It had to come. They have been pitting the Swede against the Irishman, and the Irishman against the Yankee, and the German against the whole of them. The result is they all hate one another, and would pounce on one another at the drop of the hat if the damned job did not stand in the way." Even this man, boiling over with indignation, and with a dim idea of what the basis of the trouble was, became mute when pressed for definite information.

Another man said: "This is an Irish neighborhood. It was an Irishman did it. Let's see you get anything about it from anyone. The only thing about it is that it is a wonder that it did not happen before. And it will be a great deal more of a wonder if it don't happen again."

The command of the bosses for the men to keep their mouths shut was absolutely obeyed, and according to people in the vicinity it was remarkable how scarce men from the electrical department were. They had taken to their houses, and refused to come out. A reporter called at the houses of six men in this department, but they all refused to be seen. They must have anticipated visitors, because in each case they had a guard ready to give the information that they were not at home. This, too, may have been because of authoritative commands.

Karl Malmberg was one of the most fearless and aggressive Socialists in the S. L. P. He came to this country about two years ago, and though only about 20 years of age has been interested in the movement both in his native and adopted countries. His brother is also a Socialist, and his sister, Olive Johnson, of Minneapolis, Minn., will be remembered as a frequent contributor of scientific articles to the "PEOPLE."

Malmberg was an excellent writer in Swedish and frequently contributed articles and poems to the Swedish official organ "Arbetaren."

## HANNA COMING.

**He and Mitchell to Have a Preliminary Conference.**  
Shamokin, Pa., March 25.—President Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers, said to-day that he has decided for the present not to announce the names of the fourteen men selected to seek the aid of the Civic Federation in securing an "amicable" settlement of the differences between the mine workers and the operators. It is not at all certain that this committee will have occasion to visit New York on a "peace" mission.

The programme as now prepared provides for a preliminary conference in New York between President Mitchell, the three district presidents and the Conciliation Committee of the Civic Federation. An effort will be made by these committees to arrange a meeting between the operators and the mine workers' Committee of Fourteen. Should the operators decline to meet the committee, there will be no necessity for its members to visit New York. In any event the four presidents will report the result of their efforts to the district executive boards before further action is taken.

President Mitchell and District President T. D. Nichols were in communication with the principal operators in New York yesterday, and received their refusal in the afternoon. Thereupon the following telegram was sent:

Hon. M. A. Hanna, Chairman Industrial Department, National Civic Federation:

Anthracite mine workers have failed in their efforts to effect settlement of wage scale, and have declared for a suspension of work, to take effect upon a date to be designated by district officers. I am directed to appeal to industrial department of Civic Federation for its intervention to avert threatened industrial conflict.

JOHN MITCHELL,  
President United Mine Workers of America.

The grievances of the miners will be presented to the committee of which Senator Hanna is chairman by a committee of fourteen miners, one for each 10,000 workers, appointed to act in conjunction with the national and district presidents. In the event of the Civic Federation failing to adjust the trouble before April 1, and if negotiations then pending, the miners will be ordered to suspend work on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. The companies say they will close down if a partial strike occurs until the men are ready to accept the operators' terms.

The purpose of suspending work three days in each week to prevent the storage of coal by the companies by producing an amount sufficient only to supply the existing needs of the market.

Ralph M. Easley, of the Civic Federation, announced yesterday that the Conciliation Committee of the federation will hold a special session at half-past ten o'clock this morning, at No. 231 Fourth avenue, to consider the threatened strike of the miners.

Easley said that Senator Hanna had wired from Washington Monday night that he would be present. Others who will probably attend are Bishop Potter, Oscar S. Straus, Charles A. Moore, Frank P. Sargent, James Duncan, John Mitchell and Franklin McVeagh.

The Federation officers have been keeping in touch with the leaders of the miners. There is a general belief here that a strike will not occur and that the miners are ready to accept a small part of their demands.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 25.—Coal operators here predict that if the strike order becomes general there will be a coal famine in all the large Eastern industrial centers. Said one:

"There has been a tight coal market all winter. At no time in the last five months have the hard coal fields been sending to market as much of that kind of fuel as was needed. Not many of the big industrial plants have much of a supply on hand at this time. I know where two refineries have been compelled to change their furnaces so as to burn soft coal, because they could not depend upon securing supplies of anthracite. At Port Richmond, where usually thousands of tons are in storage, you cannot now find much more than a few hundred tons."

Velvet Weavers Strike.

South Manchester, Conn., March 25.—Fifty men employed in the velvet weaving department of the Cheney Silk Mills went out on strike to-day because of an announced change in the price paid for piece work. A notice posted by the management said that the price per yard for weaving, to men running two looms, would be twelve cents. Heretofore men running one loom have received eighteen cents a yard. The plan of having a weaver run two looms, which has been tried experimentally of late, is made possible by recent improvements in the machines.

There was a prospect this morning that other velvet weavers in the mills would join the strikers unless the differences were soon adjusted. About 3,500 persons are employed in the plant.

Chicago Engravers on Strike.

Chicago, March 25.—Two hundred members of the Commercial Artists' Association, employed in fourteen of the principal engraving houses of the city, went on strike to-day because their employers refused to sign an agreement regulating hours, wages and the employment of apprentices.

The principal points of the proposed agreement are already recognized by many of the employers.

## CIVIC FEDERATION AGAIN.

### THIS TIME IT "SETTLES" PAPER TRADE WORKERS.

**Prepared to Strike Against Employer's Exactions They Go Back to Work Under Old Conditions Pending an Adjustment of Grievances.**

The Hanna-Gompers National Civic Federation claims to have averted another big strike. This time it is a strike in the paper trade which was to have started Saturday night and which it is said might have seriously hampered nearly every newspaper in the East. The strike, so they claim, would have affected ultimately about 50,000 men employed in twenty or thirty paper mills.

The principal mills involved in the dispute were those of the International Paper Company, the Great Northern Paper Company, Parsons & Company, and the Taggart Paper Company.

The agreement which "prevented" the strike was reached Saturday at a conference lasting from 11 a. m. until 2 p. m. in the office of the National Civic Federation, Mission Building, Fourth avenue and Twenty-second street, which was attended by representatives of the federation, the companies, and the workers.

The federation was represented by Oscar S. Straus, Vice President; Harry Korkowinsky (White), General Secretary of the United Garment Workers, and Ralph M. Easley.

The workers were represented at the conference by W. C. Moulton, Chisholm, Mo., President of the International Paper Machine Tenders Union, George Mackay, President of the United Brotherhood of Paper Hangers of America, and Herman Robinson, General Organizer of the American Federation of Labor. General Superintendent F. H. Parks, New York, represented the International Paper Company; W. B. Dillon, New York, represented the Great Northern Paper Company; Parsons & Company were represented by David Coles, and G. C. Sherman represented the Taggart Paper Company.

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## SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY vs. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

One often hears the question, What is the difference between the Socialist Labor Party and the Social Democratic Party? The frequency with which the question occurs is the crack compliment to the astuteness of the men who attend to the political end of the interests of the class that fleeces the workingmen, women and children in the factories, shops, mines and yards of the land.

In 1890, the Socialist Labor Party set up its standard in the State of New York. It did so because by that time it had become clear to a sufficient number of citizens that the Republicans and the Democratic Parties were the political right and left arm of the labor-fleecing capitalist class.

In San Francisco, Cal., two Social Democrats, Everett and King, applied to the Democratic Mayor for political jobs in 1900, got them, and kept them with the approval of their Social Democratic organization.

In Troy, N. Y., John Tabor, a notorious ward heelers for the Democratic ex-Senator Murphy, ran in 1901 on the Social Democratic ticket for President of Common Council, while openly declaring he would vote the Democratic ticket straight.

In 1901, a New York City Social Democrat, F. A. Holzer, appeared as Vice-President on an official call for a "German Tammany Hall" meeting on the West Side, without even provoking the censure of his Social Democratic organization.

In Haverhill, Mass., James F. Carey, Social Democrat, voted a \$15,000 appropriation for an Armory, declares he would do it again, and his conduct passes even unchallenged by his Social Democratic organization.

In New York City the "Volkszeitung," German organ of the Social Democracy, notoriously took money to advertise capitalist political candidates.

These are but a few of the undeniable facts in the official and unsavory record of the Social Democratic party on the political side. Its record on the industrial side of the Labor Movement cuts an equally broad swath of treason to the working class.

No intelligent man has any longer any doubts upon the nature of the work done in the Labor Movement by such "labor leaders" as the Gomperses, the Mitchells, the Lynches, etc., etc. The nature of their work has earned for them the title of "Organized Scaberry." Not only do they stand by the political representatives of the fleecers and abusers of the workers—the Democratic and Republican parties—but they operate the Unions that are unfortunate enough to be under their control against the best interests of the working class, often wholly in the interests of themselves or their dirty pets.

This stand was taken in the State of New York first, in the campaign of 1890. The Socialist Labor Party spread steadily from State to State. The Party's vote increased everywhere. It increased notably in this State. So marked was the current in its favor that since 1897, the election of the S. L. P. candidate from the 16th Assembly District in New York county grew into more than a threatening possibility. In that year the S. L. P. candidate came out second best in the 16th A. D. The capitalist politicians no longer sneered at the S. L. P.—they saw that it meant business. They then put their heads together to smash it. They understood that the smashing had to be done in the State of New York, and that it had to be begun in the 16th A. D. of New York county.

The coming event cast its shadows before it. During the campaign of 1898, several well known Democratic and Republican district leaders, late one night, grew reckless in their talk in one "Humpy Hanover's" saloon in the 16th Assembly District, and turning to some S. L. P. men, known to be the working hard for the S. L. P. ticket, said:

"If your candidate for the Assembly in this District polls a bigger vote than he did last year, we will take up some Socialist with a large following, and gather enough signatures to enable him to run as an opposition to your candidate."

This conversation, appeared in print in THE PEOPLE on January 22, 1899,

with no Social Democratic Party yet in sight.

The S. L. P. poll in the 16th Assembly District of New York rose over 400 votes in that year (1898). The rising waters threatened to drown the rats of the capitalist politicians. And they hastened to work to save their necks.

The very next year, during the campaign, stands sprung up on the corners of the streets in New York City, especially in the 16th Assembly District, from which speakers, styling themselves "Socialists," called upon the workingmen "in the name of Socialism" not to vote the Socialist Labor Party ticket. They had not yet a ticket of their own to offer; their original plan was to capture the S. L. P. organization by midnight assault, but they had come off with broken heads for their pains; it had become too late to gather signatures; and they satisfied themselves that year with simply raising dust by howling.

Their audiences were furnished by the Tammany heelers, together with that corrupt element known as the "labor fakir," that has since been seen making common cause with Hanna and Schwab of the Steel Trust, and that periodically masquerades as Socialists. The next year they appeared with a ticket in this and other States, and their name was "Social Democratic Party."

Kentucky stallions are not foaled by coyotes. Neither can Socialism be the offspring of capitalist corruption. The conduct of the Social Democracy has been at all points in keeping with the purpose for which it was created, and, of course, with the element that brought it forth and dominates it, and consequently in sharp contrast with the Socialist Labor Party.

In 1900, the Social Democrat John C. Smith ran in the Worcester, Mass., district on both the Democratic and the Social Democratic Party tickets, with the knowledge, consent, and approval of his Social Democratic organization.

In that same year, the Social Democrat G. A. Housh of St. Louis, joined the deputy sheriffs of his city during the St. Louis street car strike.

In the same year, the Social Democrats in the municipal government of Brockton, Mass., voted franchises to private corporations, free, gratis and for nothing.

In the spring of 1901, the Social Democrat Morris Eichmann ran for office in West Hoboken, N. J., on the Republican, the Democratic, the "Citizens" and the

"Organized Scaberry," breathes free. The present condition of the public mind, created by this move of the Democratic-Republican politicians, proves their astuteness. But their astuteness can have play-room only so long as lack of sound information continues to mark the public mind. This fact points to the burning needs of the present. Sound information must be scattered so plentifully that none but the hopelessly stupid can be misled. Then, none need ask, What is the difference between the Socialist Labor Party and the Social Democratic party? Whoever has brains to think for himself will then be able to pick his own way out of the chaos.

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In the fall of 1901, the Social Democrat Edward Staub ran for office in Syracuse on the Social Democratic ticket, and simultaneously figured on the official Democratic primary ballot, and as a delegate to the Democratic ward convention.

In Peekskill, N. Y., Seth Tabor figures as a Social Democrat and is a political job-holder by the grace of the Republican Party.

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The case of August Gleiforster, Unger and Cook ought to be fresh on your minds. Expelled for no other reason than that they had the audacity to agitate for the election of a set of officers other than the ones in control, instead of guarding the interests of the society by correcting a hasty and ill-considered action of a local branch, instead of displaying that degree of judgement and foresight which is one of the requirements of their office, they gave way to their petty malice so typical of the spirit in which they have all along conducted the affairs of our organization, sanctioned a most outrageous decree in the hope that the VICTIM COULD NOT RAISE MONEY ENOUGH TO PROTECT HIS RIGHTS—and led the organization into disastrous defeat.

The case of John B. Gross and Andrew Bahnsen, regularly elected as Trustees, but promptly deposed from office by the clique in control, the moment they endeavored to exercise the functions of their offices and determined that long after the strike is known to be hopelessly lost, as in the recent great cigar-makers' strike in New York City;—whatever infamy it may be that the "Organized Scaberry" has in hand, the Social Democratic party stands by them, praises their conduct as a "noble waging of the class struggle," and spawns its culprits at the Socialist Labor Party for fearlessly exposing that "Organized Scaberry."

The "check-off system," for instance, is one of the "Organized Scaberry" devices to pluck and tyrannize and muzzle the rank and file. By this system, the employer "checks-off" on pay-day the dues of his workmen to their Union. The employer thus becomes the Financial Secretary of the Union. The Union is supposed to be organized to protect its members against the employer, but the employer becomes virtually an officer of the Union by the "check-off" system. He is thereby an ally of the "Organized Scaberry." It is in his power to compel his workers to submit to the "Organized Scaberry." By that scheme the mine-owners have held their miners down, wherever they were not blown up. Now, then, that infamous "check-off" system is in operation in New York City, in at least two shops controlled by Lynch's International Typographical Union. While the Socialist Labor Party has put its finger on that ulcer and denounced it, the Social Democratic party endorsed it, not only by lying low on the subject, but by nominating, as its candidate for Governor in 1900 and its candidate for Mayor in 1901, Mr. Ben Hanford, a limb of the "Organized Scaberry" that runs that Union, one who profits by it through well-paid soap committee jobs, and who himself worked in one of those shops (Rogowski's, 440 Pearl street), was there "checked-off" and by his silence encouraged the nefarious "check-off" system.

Like a veritable criminal the Social Democratic party travels over the country under a number of aliases. In some States it calls itself "Socialist Party." In Massachusetts its official designation is "Democratic Social Party." In Pennsylvania its style is "Public Ownership party." In New York it calls itself "Social Democratic party." Of course, everywhere it pretends to be a Socialist party, and, aided by the Republican-Democratic capitalist press, it raises confusion everywhere. True enough, nowhere can its defamations of the Socialist Labor Party gain credence. But it is equally true that nowhere are the masses sufficiently posted to see through the fraud; the impression carried away by most people is the absurd one that "the Socialists are divided;" discouragement is thus created; and the masses, that would otherwise be moving towards and centering within the Socialist Labor Party, are scattered to the four winds;—and that was the purpose back of the launching of the Social Democratic party: the labor-fleecing class, together with its lackeys, the

## A LESSON IN PROFITS.

### S. D. P. THEORISTS GET TANGLED UP IN REALITIES.

#### The Eight-Hour Day and the Mistakes Made Concerning It—An Illustration Showing How Capitalism Turns All Things to Its Own Advantage—The Workers Share.

James Carey, the Social Democratic representative from Haverhill, Mass., has introduced a bill in the legislature to make a National 8-hour day, "by having the legislature of the various states" frame a measure to that effect. He says the reason of there not being an 8-hour day is that one state wishes to have an advantage over another in trade, this therefore necessitates a National movement.

Is this 8-hour day a good thing for workmen? Apparently so. But let us see its arguments. One is that it will lighten toil. To do this does not necessarily mean to shorten hours, although many think that to be a fact. You can shorten hours of actual labor but if you lessen the earning power as well, you are not lightening toil to the advantage of workmen. But if you increase wages or the purchasing power of wages, you then lighten toil, even though you do not shorten its hours below 10 a day. It is also claimed that this shorter work day will put idle men to work. If 100 men work 2 hours a day less, which is 200 hours, it gives 25 men more an 8-hour day to make the balance of product. This it may do, which would be some good.

Now let us examine under the microscopic eye of scientific Socialism and see if it will lighten toil and for whom. Some will say it will lighten the pressure on the labor market, and in that way increase wages. We can study this out with the following illustration, although the machine, that iron workmen who toil all hours at 8 cents a day, will attend to that part of reducing wages. Suppose, for instance, all men are occupied in the manufacture of hats. Let this figuratively cover all commodities. Each man works 10 hours a day, making 10 hats in that time, and receiving in wages for 10 hours \$2 for himself and costing for machinery, raw material and profits for the employer 4 times that sum or \$8, and I believe this is about the statistical ratio between them. Now, then, these 10 hats will cost to produce the sum of \$2 in wages plus the \$8 for material, machine and profit, or \$10, and these hats will have a selling power of \$1 each. If then the hours of labor are reduced to eight hours a day, and the men receive the same wage as for a 10-hour day, the manufacturer will also expect the same profit, making the net amount the same, or \$10 for the output per man per day. While the quantity of the output must decrease, being done in 8 hours, or at the ratio of a 10-hour day, which is one hat an hour, or 8 hats a day, then this 8-hour-a-day hat will have the selling price of \$1.25, in comparison to \$1, which is the selling price of the 10-hour-a-day hat. This certainly is decreasing the purchasing power of the workmen's wages, as he can't buy as many articles at \$1.25 as at \$1, and as the workmen use the bulk of commodities, who is the lightening of toil on?

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lars, giving the rest of humanity a chance to make the other 6 hats, if the demand called for 10 hats. This is an illustration that can be applied to all products of the world, showing there is but one way to get shorter hours that will benefit humanity in general, and that is through the honest principles of the Socialist Labor Party. This is another apt picture of the thinness of the Social Democratic theory. And paradoxical as it may seem, yet 8 hours work at 10 hours' pay, or 8 hours' work, at 8 hours' pay, is a loss to the workingman, under the capitalist system, and a gain to the manufacturer.

JOHN A. ANDERSON.

### SKINNER'S "SHARE."

#### Accumulated \$3,000,000 While He and His Family Lived in Luxury.

Holyoke, Mass., March 20.—The will of the late William Skinner, silk manufacturer of Holyoke, Mass., has just been probated and discloses the fact that he has accumulated a fortune of about \$3,000,000 since he located in Holyoke twenty-five years ago. The Holyoke "Transcript," whose editor is one of those apologists of capitalism so well described by Comrade Austin, a few weeks ago in the DAILY PEOPLE, says that this vast fortune "was acquired by honest labor backed by good judgment." A little arithmetic will make the point clearer. Suppose Mr. Skinner had actually been at his office every day for 25 years and allowed himself only two weeks vacation in each year, he has been able to save out of it \$2,400 every week. As Mr. Skinner has never been known to do this, he has never been known to do this, he has never done anything but amuse himself in foreign countries it is reasonable to assume that Mr. Skinner's weekly wages must have averaged more than \$3,000 a week. Mr. Skinner was never considered an educated man but was always cracked up to be a plain everyday sort of a fellow, therefore it is always reasonable to assume that he was not a giant knowledge box of any kind it must be admitted that a wage of \$150,000 a year is rather a liberal allowance for an honest day's work, especially when we consider that Mr. Skinner allowed his fellow workers in his office all mill no more than an average of \$8 per week. The truth is simply this: Mr. Skinner had 500 wage slaves in his factory, who did the brain and muscle work in the making of silk goods, for which they received on an average \$8 per week while Mr. Skinner made a PROFIT upon their labor averaging about \$7 per week per slave. That is the secret of wealth production all over the world, and the Skinner's are the human leeches who absorb the wealth thus created, but who seek to hide the truth from the workers. This they do for fear the workers may rebel against the robbers and compel them to work for their own living, like any decent man or woman should and receive in compensation from society what their labor is justly worth. In addition it may be added that these Skinner's and their flunky apologists know full well where the real wealth comes from. Mr. Skinner has provided in his will that \$1,000,000 be placed in charge of trust companies who shall pay each of his five daughters the income from said money. In other words, the daughters may keep right on sponging it upon the sweat of the workers at the rate of \$200 a week each of them and they need not even go inside the mill where this blood money is coined but simply draw their checks whenever they need their pin money. Great indeed is capitalism and great indeed is the patience of the workers who stand this fleecing process.

M. RUTHER.

### General Committee, Section New York, Socialist Labor Party.

Regular meeting held Saturday, March 22, 1902; 8:30 p. m. in the Daily People Building, 26 New Reade street, Manhattan.

Chairman, H. Kuhn; Vice-Chairman, D. Ferguson. Six new delegates were seated. Twelve new members were admitted. One application for membership was referred to the City Executive Committee for investigation. Two resignations were accepted.

An extended discussion was held on the Party Press.

Adjournment followed.

\* A. C. KUHN, Secretary.

### Section London, Ont.

#### S. L. P. Address to the Electors and Citizens.

To the Electors of the City of London:

In view of the approaching Provincial election, Section London of the Socialist Labor Party of Canada, wish to remind the electorate of this city of a few facts which will assist the honest elector in deciding which party in the coming contest should receive his moral support and get his vote.

The facts in this leaflet should appeal to every fair-minded citizen who considers the ballot a sacred means whereby he may express his political views: to decide that the Socialist Labor Party is the only political party whose principles and platform admit of no misconception, and savor only of honest, open and intelligent methods.

# THE SEATTLE FIGHT.

Conditions Existing in the Pacific Coast  
City Necessitate Hard Work, and  
the Apparent Gains Are Small.

## BUT STILL IT TELLS

The Question of Open or Shut Doors  
to the Houses of Ill Repute-The  
Commercial Necessity of Vice-  
Kangaroos and the Part They  
Played-Holding the Vote for An  
Increase-Ready for the Next Battle

Seattle, Wash., March 9.—The municipal election is over, the voice of the "people" (Weekly) has been heard, the majority of the law has been upheld, and the citizens of Seattle have again settled down to the task of upbuilding and furthering the interests of the city.

There was a great "landslide" last Tuesday, a slide in which a great majority of the working class again slid into the shambles of capitalism.

Section Seattle emerges from the fight stronger, cleaner, more determined and better equipped than ever to carry on the struggle against the capitalist class, a struggle which will only cease when the banner of the working class floats in triumph from the dome of the capital at Washington.

The result of the campaign just closed is most gratifying to the members of Section Seattle, our efforts have not been in vain, the onslaught which we have carried on against the almost impregnable wall of capitalism is beginning to have the desired effects and the days in which the capitalist politicians, puppets, journalists and labor fakirs are able to hoodwink the members of the working class are drawing to a close.

In so far as the labor fakirs in this city are concerned their power and influence is already a thing of the past, three years of continued opposition and public exposure of their nefarious schemes by the fighting S. L. P. has been sufficient to put the quietus on the local labor fakirs for all time to come.

The fake issue of the capitalist parties was whether Seattle should be a "wide-open" town in which all kinds of vice in its most hideous forms would be allowed to go unchecked and flaunt itself unreservedly before the eyes of decent people or whether we should have a strict enforcement of "law" and compel the vile and vicious, the skin game and prostitutes to ply their trade behind closed doors in the back yard of any other place, just so the "respectable" citizens the innocent and the blind could not see it unless they looked for it.

The Republican Party with "Honest" Tom Humes as their candidate declared that they were doing all that could or ought to be done along this line. They pointed out in the first place that the evils were necessary and being necessary it was idle to talk about stopping them and in the second place the commercial welfare of the city demanded that vice should be "wide-open."

The democrats with Goodwin as their standard bearer representing the "moral element" also declared that while the evils were necessary they should be regulated and if elected he promised to control vice, make it have some regard for respectable people and he especially promised to protect the working class by placing gambling dens in a place that the dinner pail brigade could not get at them.

The immoral element won, vice goes unchecked and the commercial supremacy of Seattle still lives.

The S. L. P. exposed these false issues and continually pointed out the cause of the "necessary evils" and that the only issue was whether the capitalist system with its poverty and degradation of the working class and its necessary evils on the one hand and the capitalist class rioting in luxury and splendor with the wealth stolen from the working class, on the other hand, or whether the working class should kick overboard the capitalist class, and their system, and necessary evils along with it and make themselves masters of their own destinies by taking control of the public powers and using those powers to further the interests of the working class only.

We always appealed to our fellow workingmen as intelligent men and always made it a point to warn them that unless they were satisfied that they understood the aims, objects and methods of the S. L. P. to not vote our ticket.

The result is as follows:

For Mayor—Walter Walker..... 172

Comptroller—Chas. E. Regal..... 181

Court Counsel—Jno. W. Monette..... 192

Treasurer—Fred W. Rutherford..... 181

Councilmen at large: Frank Crossman..... 176

M. J. Kennedy..... 180

Council 1st Ward: Owen Martin..... 56

Council 2nd Ward: G. F. Kaufman..... 6

Council 3rd Ward: William Walker..... 9

Council 4th Ward: Paul Wagner..... 24

Council 5th Ward: Abe Briescliffe..... 23

Council 6th Ward: E. S. Prentiss..... 27

Council 7th Ward: C. F. Neilson..... 11

Council 8th Ward: F. G. Goodman..... 7

Council 9th Ward: J. W. Basor..... 7

Two years ago in a similar election we polled 182 votes for the head of the

ticket, but the gain of 24 votes recorded in this election does not in any way tell the story or convey any idea of the work accomplished by Section Seattle during that time.

At the time of the last election the S. L. P. was practically the only party having the name of socialist in the field. The S. D. P. was then in its embryonic stage in this city, its vote was small and the S. L. P. of course received many votes which did not belong to it, but which logically belonged to the S. D. P.

Since that time the S. D. P. has blossomed forth in all its "power and glory," with a weekly paper which they freely distributed among the trade unions, with all their catering to the pure and simple, with hobnobbing with the labor fakirs in order to "swing" the union vote, with their compromising, catch more flies with molasses than you can with vinegar tactics, they succeeded in this election in polling 312 votes which number included many former S. L. P. voters which as I said never belonged to it.

One year ago the section was almost rent in twain on account of the Kingsley-Knight affair, both of these men had many followers and both swore vengeance against the S. L. P. and predicted that the scalp of Section Seattle would in a few months hang from their belts.

The opposition of this Kangaroo outfit was very troublesome for a time, but the Buzz-Saw at last cleaned our path of the debris and most of their followers have found their place in the garbage box, the Multi-Coca "Socialist Party."

The principal cause however of our apparently small vote is on account of the peculiar make up of the population of Seattle and the nature of our propaganda.

In the article published in THE PEOPLE several weeks ago, mention is made of the fact that Seattle is the headquarters of the Washington lumber industry and it is here that the working men employed in those industries are continually coming and going.

The transient population of this city is very large among the working class and the work of section Seattle has been for the most part among these transient workingmen. Our aim has been to spread clear working class doctrine and not to roll up a large vote. The fruit of our labors is seen not only in this city but throughout all parts of the state and in fact all parts of the United States where the workingmen have gone.

We have held on the average of three street meetings a week the year around, our sales of papers and literature have been large, sometimes as much as \$25 worth per week, and it is doubtful if there is another place in the United States where the speakers of the S. L. P. in given number of meetings address so many different workingmen.

The vote is most gratifying and encouraging to the members of section Seattle and the result has infused new life and vigor into the stalwarts, we have already opened the fall campaign and with the present corps of speakers and workers our vote next fall will greatly exceed the present one.

Another thing which I have neglected to mention is the fact that section Seattle is composed for the most part of transient workingmen who generally work out of the city and are only here at uncertain intervals. Many times has the section been left with only one speaker and at such times the work accomplished could not of course be very great.

Section Seattle is proud of its record, the future looks bright and cheerful, let the watchword of the comrades everywhere be, "Down with the labor fakir, death to capitalism, up with the S. L. P. and S. T. & L. A., onward to the cooperative commonwealth the workers re-public."

Our progress is necessarily slow but nevertheless sure, the days of capitalism and wage slavery are numbered and the emancipation of the working class by the working class is at hand.

JNO. W. MONITTE.

A German "Invasion" of England.

It seems almost incredible that the Sheffield scissors industry is approaching extinction through the superior excellence and lower prices of German goods. That assertion appears, nevertheless, in a local journal which is not given to expressing alarmist views. It is alleged that German scissors are ousting those of Sheffield made from the home market generally, being better finished, of equal quality, and far cheaper, thus providing the retailer with a larger margin for profit. When local cutlery manufacturers are questioned as to the reason of this rapid displacement of British goods by foreign, they do not deny the fact, but attribute the loss of business to the evil operation of trade union interference in the trade. That may be, and probably is, one potent cause, but there are some authorities who attribute no small share of the blame to the manufacturers themselves. Their machinery has not kept pace, it is affirmed, with modern improvements, whereas German makers are quick to adopt any novel appliance which gives promise either of cheapening production or of bringing the finished article into closer harmony with popular requirements. It is not for us to judge what degree of truth lies in this indictment. But it is undoubtedly a grave matter of almost national concern if what used to be one of the most prosperous industries in the cutlery metropolis is threatened with early ruin by foreign imports.—London Globe.

Two lectures on "Two Pages from Roman History" will be delivered by Daniel De Leon at Manhattan Lyceum, 60-68 East Fourth street, New York.

The first of these, "Plebe Leaders and Labor Leaders," will be delivered on Wednesday, April 2nd, at 8 P. M. The second lecture, "The Warning of the Gracchi," will be delivered on Wednesday, April 10th, at 8 P. M. These lectures will be free to all. Ten thousand throw-aways have been printed and can be had in a few days at the office of Section New York, S. L. P., 2-6 New Street, New York.

Assembly Districts are urged to get a supply of these and systematically distribute them among the voters in their districts. Immediate action will be necessary by the Districts at the time in short and these lectures should be extensively advertised.

To the Subdivisions of Section New York and Progressive Trade and Labor Organizations.

Greeting.

Cooper Union having been engaged for a Monster Mass Meeting on May 1st to fittingly celebrate INTERNATIONAL LABOR DAY, your organization is invited to send two delegates to a conference to be held at the Daily People Building on Saturday, March 29, 8 P. M., for the purpose of attending the necessary arrangements.

"This is the sort of a life a society woman leads. What right have you to meddle into philosophy, literature and

politics?"

"It is a mere accident of birth that you are not factory girls or dry goods saleswomen. And were you such, can you feel certain that you would have the courage to prefer honest, laborious misery to blameworthy ease?"

The audience was stupified. Several of the members moved to-day that the invitation be withdrawn for the two remaining lectures, but the majority refused to do so, arguing that such a sincere man as M. Zola should be allowed freedom of speech, however startling and severe his words might be.

where all editorial communications, money, remittances, and business communications are to be directed.

Sozialistische Arbeiter-Zeitung.

Owned and Published by the Socialist Labor Party.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One Year..... \$1.00

Six Months..... 50

Three Months..... 25

Editorial Rooms and Business Office, 229 St. Clair Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

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Two years ago in a similar election we polled 182 votes for the head of the

## IRISH SOCIALISTS.

They Poll 800 Votes in Two Dublin Wards.

## THE FIELD OF LABOR

### NEWS FROM.....

#### THE FIELD OF LABOR

#### Wages in the Shoe-Industry.

Not very long ago, the National Industrial Commission issued a final report on Labor, in which it was shown that wages are relatively and absolutely declining, while labor is being intensified, resulting in a shortened period of trade life to the worker. During the past week, the Census Bureau has issued some figures on the shoe industry of this country which give point to these facts, bringing them more forcibly and clearly to the S. D. P.

Since that time the S. D. P. has blossomed forth in all its "power and glory," with a weekly paper which they freely distributed among the trade unions, with all their catering to the pure and simple, with hobnobbing with the labor fakirs in order to "swing" the union vote, with their compromising, catch more flies with molasses than you can with vinegar tactics, they succeeded in this election in polling 312 votes which number included many former S. L. P. voters to it.

According to these figures, the number of establishments making shoes decreased, between 1890 and 1900, from 2,082 to 1,600 in number, or 23.2 per cent. This decrease of establishments was accompanied by an increase in the number of workers, from 133,690 in 1890, to 144,922 in 1900, or 6.9 per cent.

The wages of the shoeworkers amounted to \$60,867,415 in 1890, and \$59,173,883 in 1900, an absolute loss of 2.5 per cent. When, however, it is recollected that the number of workers has increased 6.9 per cent, the relative loss is still greater; especially is this the case when the increased value of the product for the two periods is considered. In 1890, this value amounted to \$220,619,358; in 1900, to \$281,028,580, or an increase of 18.3 per cent. From the figures showing the increase of workers and the increase of product values, it is easy to see that the relative loss in wages is far greater than the given absolute loss of 2.5 per cent. It would be nearer the truth to place the loss at about 15 per cent.

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Published by the Socialist Labor Party,  
at 24 and 6 New Reade St.,  
New York.  
P.O. Box 1576, Telephone, 123 Franklin.  
EVERY SATURDAY.

## TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Invariably in advance  
Single Copy..... 02  
Six months..... 25  
One year..... 50.50

Bundle rates: Less than 100 copies, 1 cent;  
over 100 to 500 copies, 1/2 cent;  
over 500 or more, 1/4 cent a copy.

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Entered as second class matter at the  
New York Post Office, June 27, 1900.

## SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888.....	2,068
In 1892.....	21,157
In 1896.....	38,564
In 1900.....	34,191



The artisan who is demanding at this time an eight hours day in the building trades is simply striving to recover what his ancestor worked by four or five centuries ago.

THOROLD ROGERS.

## A COMICAL DISTRESS.

The San Francisco, Cal., "Advance," a Kangaroo Social Democratic organ, living in a section of the country where a good deal of Spanish still pervades the atmosphere, must be appreciating the fullness of the homely truth and truthful homeliness of the Spanish adage regarding the troubles of the man who tries to extricate himself from the tangle of a shirt eleven yards long that he has got himself into. The "eleven-yard shirt" in this instance is the Kangaroo "Trades Union attitude," to which fully as many more yards are added by the recent San Francisco Trades Union independent political party, that left the Kangaroo brigade of San Francisco "bored from within" beached like a clam at low tide, after its committee of five had been contemptuously allowed to "warm the chairs in the gallery." The squirmings of the "Advance" in its attempt to disentangle itself are odd to witness: it is the man in the "eleven-yard shirt" over again, getting his legs caught, tumbling, trying to rise, tumbling again and finally presenting the picture of a bundle of anatomy and dry goods all of a heap.

The "Advance" argues that the San Francisco independent Trades Union Party movement was "a class struggle manifestation" and "brought out in sharp lines the antagonism of interests between the capitalists and the workingmen." It then proceeds to admit that all this "class struggle manifestation," together with the "sharp lines antagonism," etc., etc., was captured by and became a catespaw for the Republican Party. And it finally philosophizes that such a mischance was simply the result of the Kangaroos not having "bored from within" for a sufficient length of time and with sufficient intensity: If, it declares, the Kangs had only started in early and kept it up long enough, then, oh, then, "despite all conservative leaders" in the pure and simple unions the issue would have been a great "Socialist victory."—What a succession of bump-bump-bumps!

It is undeniable that such a thing is possible as the uprising of a labor organization, prompted originally by clearly felt class antagonisms, being led into the camp of the very class it meant to hit, and thus being captured by the very toe it meant to combat. It is furthermore undeniable that hardly a stirring, that periodically manifests itself in the ranks of the rank and file proletariat, but falls within the category of class-prompting: at the same time undeniable is the fact that all these promptings, without exception, are led into the ground, are betrayed to the enemy, by the "conservative leaders" of pure and simpledom. The question, accordingly, resolves itself into this: How to open the eyes of the rank and file of the Working Class so as to enable them to see the "conservative leaders" in their true light, to know them for what they are, to treat them as the traitors they be? This question the Kangaroo Social Democratic "Advance" answers with: "Some more, some longer, some intenser 'boring from within.'" In other words, the eyes of the rank and file are to be opened, their confidence is to be broken in their "conservative leaders" by, what?—by an intenser application of the Kangaroo plan, the key to which is the "declaration of their own National Convention that the enormous into which these identical "conservative leaders" lead the rank and file into are "a noble waging of the class struggle," the rank and file are to be weaned from their traditional betrayers by, what?—by the Kangaroo applause of these ide-

tical betrayers, such applause being the condition precedent and the condition subsequent for the tolerance of the Kangaroo by the "conservative leaders" in the Hanna-Gompers Trades Union Movement!

Really, in the act of lashing the crooked Kangaroo, alias "Multi-Coca," alias "Social Democratic," alias "Pandemonium Socialist," alias "Public Ownership," alias "Socialist" Party man, one often feels like staying his striking arm: It is so hard to tell where Kangaroo imbecility ends, and Kangaroo crookedness begins.

## LET THE WORKERS HUSTLE!

The Ship Subsidy bill passed the Senate with a safe majority. This is one long step towards its becoming a law, and thus registering one more stupidous steal, practised upon the National Treasury. Indeed, in passing, one of the arguments brazenly made in its favor was that it was "no worse than so many others." As far as this feature of the affair is concerned, the matter would hardly merit much attention: whether the millions to be appropriated are left in the Federal Treasury, or whether they be invested in more Gatling-guns-on-paper-dispensing Judges, or in larger military establishments, or whether they be plumped into the pockets of a select coterie of ship-owning capitalists,—what's the odds? The condition of the Working Class remains the same. After, as before, the earnings of the workingman decline, because, after, as before, their earnings are determined by the supply and the demand for Labor in the Labor market, and, consequently, after as before, the bulk of their product is plundered from them by the Capitalist Class. Whatever disposition is made of the millions to be appropriated, the root of the system of wage slavery remains unaffected one way or the other. The disposition of the aforementioned millions in the treasury is determined merely by the preponderance, this way or that way, of this, that, or the other plundering capitalist concern. That the said millions—exclusively the product of Labor—are found in the Treasury and not in the workingman's pocket is in itself evidence of their representing "Plunder." The fight was among the plunderers for the share of this portion of the workers' hide. In so far what's there new, odd or surprising in the "Ship Subsidy"? Nothing. And yet there is that in the "Ship Subsidy" that takes it out of the usual run of steals.

When moneys are appropriated for the River and Harbor, the Public Buildings, the Canals, and so many other pretences for steals the moneys do not go directly into the robbers' private pockets; they travel thither safely and surely enough, but they travel thither circuitously. In this instance, however, the steal goes thither on a bee-line. In doing so it damages not a little the anti-Socialist speeches that the Capitalist Class seeks to head off Socialism with; and it knocks into a heap of ruins all capitalist pretences to sincerity and honesty.

The Working Class maintains and proves that, stripped of the wherewithal to work with (Capital), it can not hold its own in the competitive struggle for existence, and goes down, a wage slave class, fleeced by its fellow competitors for life, the Capital-holding or Capitalist Class. The Working Class programme, accordingly, is the demand that the Capital needed to work with be legislated into the hands of the Working Class. The very mention of such a programme throws the Ship Subsidy Class into hysterics: "Un-Americanism!" "Paternalism!" "Individuality-Killingism!" "Treason!" "Un-Godliness!" such are but a few of the printable sputterings that the Ship Subsidy Class sputters at the Working Class demand. What a commentary on capitalist rectitude is not the Ship Subsidy bill!

The orchestration to which the Ship Subsidy bill was launched and passed the Senate is the claim that, stripped of Subsidy, these ship-owning capitalists could not hold their own in the competition with foreign ship-owners, and have to go down defeated by their fellow competitors. In other words, the identical class, with Hanna as its fugleman, that cries out anathema against the workingman's programme of having the capital he needs in the competitive struggle for life legislated into his hands,—that identical class turns about and demands that the capital (subsidy), which it says it needs in the shipping trade competitive warfare, be legislated into its hands!

But even such a spectacle may be said to be nothing new. What, it may be asked, can there be new in the line of Capitalist self-stultification? Who is there with brains in his head who, for some time has needed any proof of Capitalist inherent baseness, dishonesty, and fraud? Granting the obvious point, there would yet remain in this Ship Subsidy performance an eloquent object lesson to be profited by. It is this:

Without Capital the competitor goes down: Therefore—woe to that competitor who is not in the possession of the Public Powers: Only that competitor who is able to himself legislate, ex-

clude and judicialize the requisite Capital into his own hands—in other words, who has placed himself on the right side of the guns—has any show: To-day only the Capitalist Class is there, consequently it legislates, etc., INTO ITS OWN HANDS: Let the Working Class hustle, bounce the Capitalist Class and get there itself.

## THEY NOW CALL IT "WINNETKA."

A few years ago every freak in the land was shouting "Initiative and Referendum." The "Initiative and Referendum" was to be the panacea for all social ills. Indeed, it was huckstered about in regular patent medicine style: warranted to cure after one or two applications. The craze lulled, and finally was heard of but little. It is now up again. Like all crazes, this one now turns up under a new name: the "Winnetka System." At all points it is the same old corpse, only revivified in fresh furbelows. It may seem tiresome, it is instructive all the same to re-submit such crazes to the scalpel, every time they reappear. Being plausible absurdities their exposure serves the purpose of rectifying thought; being vicious conceits the squelching of them serves the purpose of clearing the path of rubbish.

The germ of truth that makes the "Initiative and Referendum," alias "Winnetka System," plausible is the truism that the people should rule themselves; the germ of falsehood that makes the thing vicious is the suggestion of mystical powers in the suffrage and the form in which it is exercised. Plausibility and mysticism shaken up together produce a fetid compound. So in this case.

The ballot is a form of civilized discussion among masses. It is all that, but it is not more. There is, accordingly, in the ballot no more intelligence than in the person who casts it. The "Initiative," etc., alias "Winnetka System," implies a denial of this cardinal truth. It attributes to the ballot, cast in a certain way, occult powers; starting upon such foundation, the "Winnetka System," alias "Initiative," etc., reaches a series of preposterous conclusions, which schemers, always acting upon an unerring instinct, quickly seize upon, and seek to turn to the Capitalist use of turning the Labor Movement awry.

Whatever is true and useful in the "Winnetka System," alias "Initiative and Referendum" is now in full operation. The annual, in many cases semi-annual elections in the land, are, in that respect, essential "Winnetkas." What does the "Winnetka" propose? That laws shall not be passed without the consent of the citizens: a proposed law is submitted to the voters: if approved it passes, if disapproved it is rejected. What essential difference is there between that and our present elections? He who has ears to hear, or eyes to see, can, at every election, hear and see the question: "Citizens are you satisfied with the laws that have been passed? If you are, vote back into power the parties that have passed such laws; if you are not satisfied, vote them down and out." It is mysticism of the most vicious nature to imagine that people, the ears and eyes of whose intellects are so stopped that they will regularly answer the above question in the affirmative by voting back into power the parties who have uniformly legislated bad laws, will suddenly have ears and eyes clear enough to vote with greater intelligence upon the laws themselves. It is this vicious mysticism that brands all "Winnetkas" as mischievous; it is this their mischievous feature that renders them permanently attractive to the crooks.

Obviously, it is not the method of voting that needs and deserves the attention of honest men. What needs and deserves their individual attention is the method of clearing the sight and hearing of the voters. Then, "Winnetkas" or no "Winnetkas," suffrage or no suffrage, the citizens would quickly and effectively sweep bad laws, together with their breeders, into the political and social scrap-heap.

It is by reason of this very fact that "Winnetkas" periodically bob up. Their purpose is to draw attention and energy away from the path that leads to results, into the paths that lead to quagmires. Accordingly, it is no wonder that all "Winnetkas" come accompanied with such mischievous stupidities as "non-partisanship": every man, unless fit for the lunatic asylum, is a "partisan": to be a "partisan" is to have a "purpose": who but idiots act purposelessly? Accordingly, it is no wonder that the Hannaized American Federation of Labor, with its scabby Tampa deputy sheriffs, its scabby check-off system, its raft of scabby decoy-duck placemen in the capitalist Government, carefully avoids filling its printed space with educational matter that would clarify the minds of the workers on the workings of the capitalist system. If it did, it would be aiding the work of teaching the workers how to use the ballot they now hold and know their capitalist fleecers under an avalanche of votes, and rear the Socialist Republic. Instead, it prints thick "supplements" with "Winnetka System" slush. The more, taken

up in a man's mind with slush, is not available for sense.

What new name will the lure take next?

Mr. Ho Yow, in pleading for entrance for the Chinese to this country, spoke with Oriental simplicity and directness, but thereby made a grave mistake. He said that Chinese labor was of the utmost advantage to employers, at whose instigation laws are passed. He can see all right, but he has much to learn in keeping control of his thoughts. It is evident to all but scholars, pure and simple, experts, capitalist editorial writers, and Digger Indians that all laws are passed by and for the employing class, but it is the rankest kind of Socialism to say so and then act in accordance to the saying.

Bishop Potter deplores the tendency to criticize city officials, either for what they have done in the past three months, or for what they are doing or not doing. Three months are long enough to form an estimate in, and as the present administration has done nothing, and apparently is doing nothing, the Bishop's plea was simply so much protection for them. He was one of those who chorused loudest in the great Tammany hunt, and he did not hesitate to drag game from the City Hall, or to criticize departments in which game might lurk. So to be immunity for the present administration is proof that the former zeal was prompted by something other than a spirit of civic righteousness.

The subject of food adulteration shows the tottering and often helpless condition of modern science in dealing with important questions, and the same subjects show the ability of the business man in taking advantage either of skill or ignorance. Dr. Wiley, who was called before the House Committee on Commerce made some startling statements.

He said that the glucose used in the adulteration of food products is wholesome. He said that while his statement to this effect had at first been ridiculed, his contention was now admitted by food experts. Dr. Wiley showed the committee several kinds of jellies made from the peicings and cores of apples, chemically colored and flavored to represent different fruit jellies. Dr. Wiley added that the by-products of the apples from which the jellies were made are shipped to Europe and used in the making of champagne. An "Ohio wine," made from coal tar dye, sugar and alcohol, and containing absolutely none of the products of the vine, was next shown. Dr. Wiley gave instances where manufacturers were themselves deceived by coal tar dyes, which were represented as pure vegetable dyes. That is business.

English papers are aroused to the fact that Ireland is really not so content as Englishmen persistent in telling Irishmen she is. Agitation has been going on for some time, and has done much to arouse the Irish people. As the agitation is the same old kind, and as the objects are the same old objects, it is impossible that anything good come of it. Irish leaders have run Irish revolt into the ground with monotonous regularity. The only thing ever accomplished was to give more work to that great pacifier, the hangman.

The Tobacco Trust has fleeced its workers to such an extent that it is able to go to England with \$30,000,000 with which to take from the English firms their tobacco trade. This enormous sum represents the life blood of thousands of men, women and children. It represents the systematic stealing that has gone on, and shows how deep the employer cuts into the product of the worker.

It is a lesson in high-handed robbery, in downright murder. What the Tobacco Trust does all other trusts do also, and all employers of labor do, each according to its ability.

"Organized Labor" of San Francisco, adds another count to the indictment of the Civic Federation, and also of the pure and simple trades union movement. It says that the N. C. F. "settled" the strike of the machinists, and settled it so thoroughly that the heads of the men are yet swimming.

They are not sure whether it was an ax

or an "amicable arrangement" that laid them low, but laid low they are, and it hurts.

"Organized Labor" devotes a

whole page to this and calls it the crime

of the century. That is wrong; the crime

of this century and of last century was

the waste of the intelligence and energy

of the working class that the trades unions endured, has made possible, and

presumed to be closer at hand than is commonly supposed. The report men-

tioned says:

"The increase in suicides, as shown by the statistics collected with great care by the 'Chicago Tribune' is simply startling. In 1891 there were 3,531 suicides, and in 1901 7,425, an increase of 105 per cent, while the increase of the population for the last decade has been 20 per cent. Only. Of the 7,245 suicides in 1901, only 674 are ascribed to insanity, 618 to ill-health.

"I am convinced from my observation that suicides, although for prudential reasons frequently specified in the proofs of loss as accidental deaths, has increased among insured lives at least 200 per cent during the last decade. While suicides from insanity and ill-health should not void claims, and never do in any well-managed company, public morality and the uplift of humanity, common honesty and equity demand that wilful or intentional suicides should render claims void; but as these are not always easy to distinguish from unintentional suicides, it is necessary for a life company to have a clause by which a suicide is a risk not assumed the first two years.

"The records of several companies show that the admitted suicides, and those covered by some other alleged cause, during the first two policy years are as great in number as they are in the next ten years. THIS IN ITSELF DEMONSTRATES THAT SUICIDE IS FREQUENTLY CONTEMPLATED AT THE TIME INSURANCE IS APPLIED FOR. It is the cowardly device of the degenerate or criminal to make provision for those whom he has wronged or neglected."

"The caps are mine, but they contain the gist of the report. The insurance company as a result of its investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death of suicides who have insured themselves has arrived at the conclusion that such suicides have in an increasing number of instances taken up their policies with the reserved intention of committing suicide. Such a conclusion is to say the very least staggering, for it points to a sort of commerce in life and investment in securities the value of which cannot be realized except by the death of the investor.

Here is a new and hitherto very un-

common method of providing for a family and a method which by its growth appears to be reckoned as at least some efficacy. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend," declares the old Christian teacher, an ideal of devotion which will become so common on the part of fathers of families as to render it one

## MANIFESTATIONS OF PROSPERITY.

Prosperity is peculiar in its working. It discloses strange and unexpected phenomena. The newspapers and the professors picture a glorious palace crowded with all manner of precious things towering up and up with the American eagle perched on the top and screaming a triumphant victory to the other smaller birds and beasts on the other smaller towers. But within there is anxiety, and running to and fro, doubts are freely expressed as to the structural stability of the edifice, and now and again the all-present dread voices itself in the openly expressed fear that "the niggers may break the batches."

The professors and the journalists are not truthful. They lie, some from ignorance, some from malice aforesought, and others, and, these, the majority, because they have to. They have mortgaged themselves to the devil and they must lie to live, for in the majority of cases they dare not die. So they paint beautiful pictures which they have to admit are potboilers and intended to defraud, they fake statistics which their employers in self defence have afterwards to disown, and they behave so stupidly and shortsightedly that the news of each month is contradicted by the facts of the next. Why do they not tell the truth? Because to do so would be to throw up the sponge, it would be to admit that the criticisms against which they have hurled all the force of church, state, and a highly paid staff of professors, are in reality true, that the social structure is rotten, that its foundations are sapped and that the only reason for its continued existence is the fact that it is maintained for the profit of a limited class.

Attention has been called in these columns before to the remarkable growth in the number of suicides. This is the purest sort of nonsense and as a matter of fact does not come within a thousand miles of accounting for the thing. In the first place such suicide cannot by any stretch of the imagination be called cowardly. Were it intended to escape the evils which threatened ones own person or peace of mind the expression might conceivably be defended. But in this case the suicide contemplates the well-being of others and dies to accomplish that well-being. In war they call that heroism, and frequently decorate the corpse in token of their appreciation.

One of the Hearst papers, which are nothing if not "moral," had this to say the other day upon this matter:

"Every man who commits suicide confesses a lack of courage, confesses failure, he confesses that he is too much of a coward to continue the struggle that is the foundation of existence on earth."

But suppose that the man is not a coward but that he knows that he is beaten, that the forces against which he has to contend are too much for him and that the only chance which he can find for his family is the chance that he can give them by his own death and the possession of the insurance money.

One large insurance company in its annual report indulges in certain animadversions on the subject of suicide, which are in themselves sufficiently entertaining, and which show a futile and absurdly inadequate attempt on the part of these greater capitalists to account for a phenomenon which is to say the very least alarming; for if people are beginning in increasing numbers to find life so intolerable that they hasten to relieve themselves of the burden by relinquishing, what has up to this time been universally considered as the deepest and the most valuable of all possessions, namely, life itself, the end of a system which renders such a condition of things possible may reasonably be presumed to be closer at hand than is commonly supposed

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in print under an assumed name, will attach such name to their communications, besides their own signature and address. None other will be recognized.]

As to the S. T. & L. A.:

First—What should be the attitude of the S. L. P. on the subject of the economic organization of labor? Should it hold such organizations to be needed, or to be wholly needless?

Second—What is the present attitude of the S. L. P. towards the pure and simple trades organization?

Third—What should be the attitude of the S. L. P. towards pure and simple organizations?

Fourth—Does the S. L. P. need the S. T. & L. A. to expose and overthrow the pure and simple organizations?

Fifth—Does the connection of the S. L. P. with the S. T. & L. A. strengthen or weaken the Socialist Movement, and in what way?

(The Roman figure over each letter indicates the numerical order in which the letter was received since the debate started under the Curran system. The Curran letter inaugurating that system is numbered Letter I.)

XVIII.

What should be the attitude of the S. L. P. on the subject of the economic organizations of labor? Should it hold such organizations to be needed, or to be wholly needless? Answer:

In the affirmative, decidedly, for two reasons (1) under capitalism, as at present constituted, an economic organization of the working class is a necessity to combat capitalism until the working class can develop themselves politically; (2) it is the only economic organization of the working class, all other organizations being capitalist organizations.

2.—What is the present attitude of the S. L. P. towards the pure and simple trades organizations? Antagonistic.

3.—What should be the attitude of the S. L. P. towards pure and simple organizations?

The same as the S. L. P. towards capitalism. The S. L. P. must look upon all pure and simple organizations as capitalist organizations, therefore they must be met by the uncompromising tactics of the working class (organized or unorganized) but preferable through an economic organization on class lines.

4.—Does the S. L. P. need the S. T. & L. A. to expose and overthrow the pure and simple organization?

The capitalist class in its development will do that in fact, has done so in a large measure, and in a few years will complete that which it has so successfully begun. Viewed from this standpoint it will be seen that the birth of the S. T. & L. A. was no accident nor was it premature as many are prone to think. If an economic organization of the working class is useless, and the capitalist class had no fear of such an organization, why would they (the capitalist class) spend so much energy, time, and money gobbling up the pure and simple? Those who are opposed to the S. T. & L. A. had better think this over.

5.—Does the connection of the S. L. P. with the S. T. & L. A. strengthen or weaken the Socialist movement and in what way?

It strengthens the Socialist movement by adding one more function to its organization, in other words, gives us two arms instead of one if I may compare it to a human organism. Looked at from the surface it would seem that it had sapped some strength from the S. L. P. but when we recognize there are two functions of the same organization, it is pure fallacy.

I would say, in conclusion, let us not be pessimistic of the outcome, but rather stick to the uncompromising facts of the present class-struggle and say with Thomas H. Huxley, when he spoke to the students of Aberdeen, (Scotland): "my life may be called a procession of defects, but if my defects are the stepping stones to future victories I ask no other reward."

ARCHIE SCOTT.

Malden, Mass.

XIX.

To the DAILY and WEEKLY PEOPLE.—I am cordially a new member both of the Party and the Alliance, having cut loose from the Kangaroo-Social Democratic aggregation a little more than one year ago.

However, hoping what I have to say may interest some of the older party members and contribute somewhat to illuminate the subject I offer the following:

1st.—The economic organization of the wage working class during the growth, development and transition of the capitalist system IS necessary. Why?

(1) That the wage working class with such weapons as it is armed with may exert the most effective resistance in their power against their exploiters on the economic field. Their chances of making effective resistance or successful advance against their exploiters will be as much greater than the sporadic struggles of individuals as the combined power of the collective body exceeds that of the isolated and unorganized individuals.

And, though in these collisions on the economic field between the wage-slaves, on the one side, and their capitalist masters, on the other, the wage slaves may go down in defeat, the weight of the blow can better be borne when distributed over the entire membership than when it falls on the individual alone.

(2) These economic struggles of the workers in mill, mine, shop, field and factory for the improvement of their condition or against the further degradation of it awaken and clarify in the minds of the workers the sense of solidarity more quickly and effectively than any mere political agitation can do.

(3) To advance the Socialist Movement the exploited class from whose ranks recruits are to be gained must be made to SEE AND FEEL the antagon-

isms of interest between their own class and the class that fleeces them. The economic organization, sound in principles and faithful in adhering to them, can more effectively arouse and cultivate this sense of antagonism between the two classes than any political organization alone can do.

2nd and 3rd.—The attitude of the S. L. P. towards the pure and simple organizations is that of aggressive and incessant war against them; and this attitude cannot logically be other than it is. The attitude of the Party towards capitalism is that of a steady, resolute and uncompromising purpose to overthrow it, and logically the same attitude must be maintained and the same policy pursued towards ALL economic and political organizations that support it; and no exception to this rule can be made in favor of the pure and simple organization. You do strike a blow at capitalism when you do strike a blow at the props that support capitalism. The pure and simple, a la Gompers, organization is one of the props.

4th—I answer yes. For reasons see answers given above to No. 1. But since this is the question in answer to which most of the "reasons" for dropping the Alliance are advanced by certain comrades who oppose the Party's Alliance policy, instead of reiterating reasons to show why we do need the S. T. & L. A., I will consider some of the "reasons" that have been advanced to show why the S. L. P. does not need the Alliance.

No one has stated the case for the opposition better or adduced more plausible arguments for dropping the Alliance than has Comrade Caulfield of Boston, in replying to Caulfield's "reasons" and arguments for dropping the Alliance I virtually reply to all the arguments advanced by the opposition.

Comrade Caulfield says, "Urge upon the wage-workers the necessity of education on Socialist lines, and the vital necessity of voting for it." And read to read, "Urge upon the wage-workers the necessity of education" AND ORGANIZATION "among Socialists" AND WORKING CLASS "lines and the vital necessity of voting for it" AND STANDING BEHIND THAT VOTE AS WAGE-WORKERS CONSCIOUS OF THEIR CLASS INTERESTS, and resolved to seize and hold them; and then the proposition would state the mission the Alliance as the economic ally of the Party is peculiarly fitted to aid in achieving.

Comrade Caulfield says he cannot make out how the S. T. & L. A. can overthrow the pure and simple organizations, and asks, "What organizations has it overthrown?" To which I reply with precisely the same logic: As to the overthrow of capitalist political parties, I cannot make out how the S. L. P. can do this. Where is the capitalist political party it has overthrow?

Again Comrade Caulfield says, "If we compare the progress of the pure and simple unions with that of the S. T. & L. A. in the last few years I think no one will deny that while the old organization has been defeated many times, it has still held its own as well, if not better than the S. T. & L. A." To which I answer: If we compare the progress of the Democratic party with that of the S. T. & L. A. in the last few years I think no one will deny that while the old Democratic party has been defeated many times, it has still held its own as well, if not better than the S. L. P.

Comrade Caulfield asks, "What is the use of wasting valuable time reciting all the petty trickery of some 4 by 9 men upon which the vast majority of voters know little about and care still less?" In order that "the vast majority of voters (working men) may understand MUCH and care MORE about these working class traitors AND PROPS AND SUPPORTERS of the capitalist system, so that "the great majority of the voters (workingmen) in their thereby roused righteous indignation may knock these props from under. This time is NOT "wasted." It has been said, "No good general ever leaves a fortified camp or fort of the enemy in his rear." Much more truly may it one day be said, "No good general or veteran in the ranks of the S. L. P. ever leaves a camp or fort of capitalist Courts it ceases to be a bona fide Socialist.

War, Comrade Caulfield, uncompromising war, is the word on BOTH the economic and political field against the capitalist class and ALL its defenders until that class shall be overthrown by the advancing hosts of militant, class-conscious proletarians and on the ruins of fallen capitalism the Socialist Republic is erected.

JAMES H. ARNOLD.  
Louisville, Ky.

Question I.—Conflict is the price of progress. While it is true that the concentration of capital is rapidly going on, frustification has not as yet reached that stage wherein the trust predominates. The law of capitalism being the progressive concentration of capital on the one hand, and the law of wages, being governed by competition between the workers on the other hand, and as the condition of the working class becomes more and more unbearable, the working class are bound to resist upon the economic field whether they are organized or unorganized. Laugh and jest about the pure and simplegers capital with capital, but do not lose sight of the fact that a Socialist cannot live any longer upon his class consciousness than a pure and simple can upon his empty treasury.

If the working class are properly organized upon the economic field, organized upon the sound principles of the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance, I firmly believe that the workers can win in a struggle with the trust, for the following reasons:

The workers have been successful in strikes in the past owing to the keen competition between the cock-roach concern of the middle class, who, could not afford to have a strike take place against them, as they would have the factories closed down, and their competitors would reap the harvest by taking their trade from them. But competition between the middle class has passed and competition between the powerful trusts is beginning to take its place.

News has been received from Canada to the effect that capitalists of that country are organizing a steel trust to compete against the American Steel Trust.

Now does that mean something or does it mean nothing? Indeed it means much.

It means that the capitalists of Canada

see a good chance to get at the American Steel Trust.

The American concern is shipping all its products to foreign countries and cannot supply the home market,

with the result that foreign concerns

are importing steel into the United States.

The Canadian capitalists realize

that in order to be successful they

must have an equally strong if not

stronger trust than the American capi-

talists have if they are to combat and

fight for the markets of the world.

Competition will not become a thing of

the past so long as the capitalist system

lasts, but will continue to be more and

more bitter between the powerful trusts,

as the field of operation will be so much

more extended.

Again the comrade demands to know

"where the Party demands to know

by this form of organization." The Party

has gained a clearer understanding of

the class character of the movement, and in discipline also in internal strength is evidenced in the fact that since the inauguration of that policy it has been able to rid itself of the middle class element of reactionists and political job-hunters, Kangaroos. That the expulsion of this element has strengthened the Party is proven by the fact that since that event the Party has been able to launch and successfully maintain the first Socialist daily paper in the English language.

The comrade observes that "what is needed is not a lot of sentiment worked up on the strength of a strike, but people who have been led by the logic of events to become Socialists."

Socialists are not made by the "logic

of events." It is so why make so many

sacrifices to keep alive the DAILY PEOPLE?

Why carry on at such expense our propaganda? Why not fold our hands and philosophically wait on the "logic of events" to inaugurate the co-operative commonwealth?

"What is needed is not a lot of sentiment, etc." Exactly. And no advocate of the Party's Alliance policy has

ever claimed that it is. On the contrary, the Alliance builds on the solid foundation of the class struggle moored thereto by the recognition of the MATERIAL CLASS INTERESTS of the WORKING CLASS.

The Alliance points out the folly of relying on hasty or ill-considered strikes or ethical considerations or weak and passing sentimentalism. It points the wage-slave unerringly to his material class interests and the way to win them. How many have AS YET actually entered the S. L. P. by way of the S. T. & L. A. is really not material or pertinent to the issue. However I know of some who have been moved through consideration of the Party's Alliance policy to give the Party their adhesion and support.

Again Comrade Caulfield observes: "In view of recent decisions by the Courts, etc., what folly to spend time in organizing something which the Courts can render impotent whenever the capitalist class is pleased."

Here is a parallel: In view of the

recent outrages committed upon some of our comrades by capitalist Courts; as in the cases of Frank D. Lyon in Texas and Karl Pinson in South Carolina and numerous others for endeavoring to exercise their POLITICAL RIGHTS as citizens, what folly to waste time and energy in trying to build up a POLITICAL ORGANIZATION which the capitalist Courts can render impotent whenever their capitalist masters order them to by imprisoning our agitators and speakers!

Can any one deny the fact that our political conditions are nothing more or less than a reflex of our economic conditions, and that the political parties are corrupt and instruments of capitalism simply because the economic organizations of capitalism? And until we clarify and rid the economic movement of the "labor fakirs" and make the workers class-conscious upon the economic field, it will prove to be of little use to try to side-track the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance whose purpose it is to point out to the workers that they must become class-conscious and throw overboard all the Judases and Careys who are finding the economic movement such a rich field for grafters.

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